



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Zion National Park
Springdale, Utah 84767



Dear Friend of the Park:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Volunteer in Parks (VIP) Program at Zion National Park. This letter is to provide you with general information about the park and some of the volunteer opportunities that exist. We also want to let you know what the procedure is for processing your application once we have received it.

General

Located in Washington, Iron and Kane Counties in Southwestern Utah, Zion National Park encompasses some of the most scenic canyon country in the United States. The park is characterized by high plateaus, a maze of narrow, deep, sandstone canyons and striking rock towers and mesas. Zion Canyon is the largest and most visited canyon in the park. The North Fork of the Virgin River has carved a spectacular gorge here, with canyon walls rising 2000-3000 feet above the canyon floor. The southern part of the park supports a lower desert environment while the northern sections are at higher elevations and with high plateaus and coniferous forests.

- Summer temperatures average in the 90's with highs in the 100's.
- Zion's busy season begins in April and ends in October.
- Subsistence of \$10.00 per day for each day in which you work 8 hours or more *may* be available.
- Volunteers have regularly scheduled days off so you can enjoy the park or make plans to visit one of the many recreation areas in beautiful southern Utah.
- The town of Springdale is located adjacent to the park's south entrance and offers limited grocery supplies, restaurants, gas stations and a community library. Most amenities can be found in the city of St. George (population 60,000), located 45 miles west of the park or Hurricane (population 10,000) which is 25 miles west of the park.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteers are an integral part of the staff at Zion and perform a wide variety of duties including (but not limited to) some of the following:

- Campground Hosts (at South and Watchman Campground)
- Interpretation, including staffing the Visitor Information Center Desk and Human History Museum Desk, presenting programs and guided walks, working as a Junior Ranger Program assistant, and other related duties
- Office and Library work: includes a wide variety of routine clerical duties
- Museum and photo/slide collection cataloging
- Resource Management assistance: includes vegetation restoration management, computer data entry, and assistance with archeological and wildlife inventories
- Maintenance Work: includes trail maintenance as well as carpentry, electrical, and mechanical work
- Protection Services: includes hiking backcountry trails and reporting of conditions as well as search and rescue opportunities

Campground Hosts:

The duties of a Campground Host include answering visitors' questions about camping fees and regulations, gathering campground use statistics, providing light-duty maintenance, reporting maintenance needs to park staff as well as providing general information to campers about the park and surrounding area and naturalist activities.

- Our Campground Hosts generally serve for one to three months during the period of March 1st to October 31st. Starting and ending dates of employment are negotiable.



- Hosts are required to have a motor home or travel trailer in which to live. Campsites complete with electrical, water, and sewer hookups are provided at no charge.
- The park has 2 campgrounds, each with over 140 sites. They are full most of the summer. Zion hosts over 3 million visitors annually.
- Campground hosts are basically on duty whenever they are in the park. However, they are not expected to be at their camp site the entire day. Hosts are encouraged to explore the park and surrounding area so they can answer visitor questions about park resources, facilities, and recreation opportunities.

Housing:

Depending on the time of year, housing may or may not be available. Volunteers must work a minimum of 32 hours per week to qualify for housing. Housing is generally not available between April and October. From November through March, shared housing may be available. Housing in the local community may be available but difficult to find due to the limited number of rentals. Campground spaces are available for campground hosts only. Housing for families is not available.

Uniforms:

Volunteer uniforms are provided by the park and must be worn by the individual in a manner which clearly identifies them as a volunteer. Uniform items include a shirt or tee shirt, ball cap, VIP patch, nametag, and lapel pin where appropriate.

Student Conservation Association:

You may also wish to contact the Student Conservation Association (SCA) about volunteer positions as well. SCA positions are generally full time, twelve week positions in public or private natural resource management agencies throughout the United States. Transportation costs and bi-weekly stipends are paid by SCA. Zion hires 3-5 resource assistant volunteers through this program each year. Dormitory housing is provided for SCA's. The SCA address/phone number is: P.O. Box 550, Charlestown, New Hampshire, 03603. Phone: (603) 543-1700. Web address: www.thesca.org.

Your application:

On your application, please be as specific as possible on what you would like to do as a volunteer. Provide us with details on your level of expertise, experience, and interest, as well as references. This helps us direct your application to the appropriate park division for review. If you are selected for a volunteer position, you will be contacted directly by the hiring official usually within 2-4 weeks after your application has been received. Due to the high number of applications received, we only contact you if you have been selected. Your application will remain on file for one year. If a position becomes available within that time period for which you are selected, we will contact you to inquire about your continued interest and or availability. Please send your application to: VIP Coordinator, Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah 84767 or email to ZION_VIP_mailbox@nps.gov.

We appreciate your interest in volunteering here in Zion National Park.

Sincerely,



Jock Whitworth
Superintendent